

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A document feeder to be disposed above a platen of an image reading apparatus, comprising:

 a sheet feed stacker disposed above the platen for stacking an original,

 a sheet discharge stacker disposed above the sheet feed stacker,

 a transporting guide having one side for communicating with the sheet ~~feeding~~ feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker, and the other side,

 transporting means disposed above the platen adjacent to the other side of the transporting guide, said transporting means transporting the original from the sheet feed stacker to a predetermined position on the platen through said transporting guide and transporting the original on the platen to the sheet discharge stacker through said transporting guide, and

 drive means connected to the transporting means for driving the same and capable of rotating in forward and reverse directions, and

a path switching gate disposed at the transporting guide for guiding the original from the sheet feed stacker to the transporting guide and guiding the original from the transporting guide to the sheet discharge stacker.

2. (original) A document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said transporting means includes vacuum means for sucking the original, a pair of pulleys, an endless belt placed between the pulleys, and a tension roller for restricting a distance between the endless

belt and the platen, said transporting guide being arranged for guiding the original to a part of the endless belt located between one of the pulleys and the tension roller.

3. (previously presented) A document feeder according to claim 2, wherein said transporting guide has, at the other side, a forward end portion composed of an elastic film member contacting the platen located adjacent to a chamber of the vacuum means.

4. (previously presented) A document feeder according to claim 1, further comprising feeder means disposed adjacent to the sheet feed stacker for feeding the original from the sheet feed stacker to the transporting means, and interconnecting means disposed between the sheet feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker, said sheet feed stacker and said sheet discharge stacker being pivotally arranged to enlarge a rear space between the sheet feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker at a side adjacent to the transporting guide so that when the sheet discharge stacker is rotated, the interconnecting means is actuated to push a forward end of the sheet feed stacker in a direction away from the feeder means.

5. (currently amended) A document feeder to be disposed above a platen of an image reading apparatus, comprising:

 a sheet feed stacker disposed above the platen for stacking an original,

 transporting means disposed above the platen adjacent to the sheet feed stacker for transporting the original from the sheet feed stacker to a predetermined position on the platen,

 a sheet discharge stacker disposed above the sheet feed stacker for storing the original transported from the transporting means,

a transporting guide disposed between the sheet feed stacker and the transporting means, and between the sheet discharge stacker and the transporting means for guiding the original,

drive means connected to the transporting means for driving the same and capable of rotating in forward and reverse directions,

feeder means disposed adjacent to the sheet feed stacker for feeding the original from the sheet feed stacker to the transporting means, and

interconnecting means disposed between the sheet feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker, said sheet feed stacker and said sheet discharge stacker being pivotally arranged to enlarge a rear space between the sheet feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker at a side adjacent to the transporting guide so that when the sheet discharge stacker is rotated, the interconnecting means is actuated to push a forward end of the sheet feed stacker in a direction away from the feeder means,

wherein said feeder means includes a feed roller for drawing an uppermost original on the sheet feed stacker and a rotating member, said sheet feed stacker having urging means for pressing the forward end thereof against the rotating member, said transporting means having a transport belt for transporting the original and vacuum means for sucking the sheet toward the transport belt, said sheet discharge stacker being supported on a frame rotatably around a forward end thereof in a sheet feeding direction, said sheet feed stacker being supported on the frame rotatably around a rear end thereof in the sheet feeding direction, said interconnecting means having a cam member provided between the sheet discharge stacker and the sheet feed stacker.

6. (previously presented) A document feeder according to claim 5, wherein said cam member includes a rotational cam with a rotational shaft so that when the sheet discharge stacker is rotated by a

predetermined angle, the rotational cam is pushed by the sheet discharging stacker to thereby move the sheet feed stacker away from the feed roller.

7-13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) An image reading apparatus comprising:
a platen for placing an original thereon,
photoelectric converting means disposed adjacent to the platen for reading the original on the platen, and
the document feeder according to claim 1, disposed on the platen.

15. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a device frame for covering an entire portion of the platen, a transporting case frame attached to the device frame for covering a part of the platen and supporting the transporting means, and a light-shielding cover member attached to the device frame at a portion other than a portion where the transporting means is attached for blocking light from the platen, said sheet feed stacker being disposed above the light-shielding cover member, ~~said sheet discharge stacker being disposed above the sheet feed stacker.~~

16. (previously presented) A document feeder according to claim 14, further comprising feeder means disposed adjacent to the sheet feed stacker for feeding the original from the sheet feed stacker to the transporting means, and interconnecting means disposed between the sheet feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker, said sheet feed stacker and said sheet discharge stacker being pivotally arranged to enlarge a rear space between the sheet feed stacker and the sheet discharge stacker at a side adjacent to the transporting

guide so that when the sheet discharge stacker is rotated, the interconnecting means is actuated to push a forward end of the sheet feed stacker in a direction away from the feeder means.

17. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said feeder means includes a feed roller for drawing out an uppermost original on the sheet feed stacker and a rotating member, and said sheet feed stacker includes urging means for pressing the forward end thereof against the rotating member.

18. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said transporting means includes an endless belt placed along the platen for transferring the sheet and vacuum means for sucking the sheet toward the endless belt.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A document feeder according to claim 19 1, wherein said path switching gate has a weight to allow one side of the path switching gate to incline toward the transporting guide.

21. (currently amended) A document feeder according to claim 4, where said feeding feeder means is disposed above the sheet feed stacker.